

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Minnesota Coastal Management Program**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed approval of the Minnesota Coastal Management Program (MCMP, or Program) under the provisions of Section 306 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1455, and distribute it in June, 1998.

Federal approval of the MCMP would make the State eligible for program administration grant funds and require that Federal actions be consistent with the Program.

The Program is the culmination of several years of development and consists of numerous State policies on diverse management issues which are prescribed by statute and made enforceable under State law. The Program should improve the decision making process for determining appropriate coastal land and water uses in light of resource considerations. The program should increase public awareness of coastal resources. Federal alternatives will include delaying or denying approval if certain requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act have not been met. State alternatives include the possibility of modifying parts of the Program or withdrawal of the request for Federal approval.

In order to determine the scope and significance of issues to be addressed in the DEIS, the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) hereby solicits comments on the proposed action, particularly with respect to the following issues:

- (1) The adequacy of the scope and geographic coverage of the Program's laws and regulations to manage impacts on shorelands, water quality, wetlands, and other vulnerable natural resources;
- (2) The adequacy of the mechanisms for State agency coordination and consultation in order to effectively implement the MCMP; and
- (3) The adequacy of the mechanisms for ensuring State agency consistency

with the policies of the MCMP and resolving conflicts between agencies.

The manner in which the State proposes to address the above requirements was presented in the State public review Draft Program Document of the MCMP, in February, 1997. The State has considered all comments submitted in response to that document in the preparation of the MCMP Draft Program Document to be released with the DEIS in June, 1998. Copies of the State draft document are available from OCRM.

DATES: Persons or organizations wishing to submit comments on these or other issues should do so by May 7, 1998. Any comments received after that time will be considered in the response to comments received on the DEIS.

ADDRESSES: Requests for the above described documents and all comments should be made to: Neil Christerson, Coastal Programs Division, Great Lakes Region, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, 1305 East-West Highway (N/ORM3), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; tel. 301/713-3113, ext. 167, e-mail: neil.christerson@noaa.gov.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: April 2, 1998.

Nancy Foster,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 033198D]

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Habitat Committee (meeting with the Coastal Migratory Committee, Demersal Committee, Dogfish Committee, Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee, Habitat Advisors, and Scientific and Statistical Committee), Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee, Demersal Species Committee, Executive Committee, Committee Chairmen,

Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, Information and Education Committee, and Comprehensive Management Committee will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held Tuesday, April 21, 1998 to Thursday, April 23, 1998. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Wilmington Hilton, I-95 and Naamans Road, Claymont, DE; telephone: 302-792-2700.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904; telephone: 302-674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: 302-674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, April 21, 1998, 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.—The Habitat Committee (meeting with the Coastal Migratory Committee, Demersal Committee, Dogfish Committee, Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee, Atlantic Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish Committee, Habitat Advisors, and Scientific and Statistical Committee).

Tuesday, April 21, 1998, 1:00-4:00 p.m.—The Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Committee will meet.

Tuesday, April 21, 1998, 4:00-5:00 p.m.—The Information and Education Committee will meet.

Tuesday, April 21, 1998, 5:00-6:00 p.m.—The Demersal Species Committee will meet.

Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 7:00-9:00 a.m.—The Executive Committee will meet.

Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 9:00-10:00 a.m.—The Committee Chairmen will meet.

Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 10:00 a.m. until noon—The Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Committee will meet.

Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 1:00-5:00 p.m.—Council will meet.

Thursday, April 23, 1998, 7:00-9:00 a.m.—The Comprehensive Management Committee will meet.

Thursday, April 23, 1998, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.—Council will meet.

Agenda items include recommendations on bluefish essential fish habitat (EFH); recommendations on EFH for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; discussion on distribution and abundance of scup, black sea bass, dogfish, surfclams, ocean quahogs, squid, mackerel and butterfish; review and possible recommendations